

DISCIPLINE
OR
GENESEE YEARLY MEETING.



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Yarmouth
Pupation Melody
1885



REFLECTION.

"Friends, Society of. G. Sierra y C."

RULES OF DISCIPLINE

—OF—

GENESEE

YEARLY MEETING

—OF—

F R I E N D S.

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INTRODUCTION.

It appears by the Scriptures of Truth, that in the morning of the gospel dispensation, the apostles and believers in Christ found it expedient to meet together for the purpose of divine worship, and for the promotion of the cause of righteousness ; manifesting a Godly care for the preservation one of another, that all might walk by the same thing, answerable to that precept of Jesus : "One is your master, even Christ ; and all ye are Brethren."

Agreeably to the practice of the primitive Christians, we believe it to be our duty not only to meet together for the worship of God, but also for the exercise of a christian care of each other, for the preservation of all in unity of faith and practice. For this important end, and as an exterior hedge of preservation against the temptations and dangers to which we are exposed, the following Rules of Discipline are adopted for the government of Friends, overseers, and meetings, with a view that in the exercise thereof, the unfaithful, the immoral, and the lukewarm or indifferent may be seasonably reminded of their danger and their duty ; as well as of the labor which in gospel love hath been from time to time bestowed for their health and recovery ; and that such as continue to reject

the convictions of truth, and the counsel of their brethren, and refuse to be reclaimed, may be made sensible that they themselves are the sole cause of their separation from our religious fellowship and communion.—For when any, by their inconsistent or disorderly conduct, or by imbibing and adopting principles and practices contrary to the doctrines which we hold, have first openly manifested their disunity with the Society, it is just and requisite, that after endeavoring to restore them without effect, the body should testify its disunity with such erring and refractory members ; at the same time earnestly desiring that they may be convinced of the errors of their ways, and that through unfeigned repentance, and a consistent, orderly conduct in future, they may be reunited. This being the utmost extent of our Discipline respecting delinquents, it is very evident that from the right exercise thereof, no degree of persecution or imposition can be justly inferred ; for the imposition would rest entirely on the part of those who might insist on being retained as members, whilst at open variance with the Body, either in principle or practice.

In the administration of the Discipline, it is our duty to treat with delinquents in tenderness and love, agreeably to apostolic advice : “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness ; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.” And, according to gospel order:

"If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone ; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother ; but if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established ; and if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it into the Church."

For the more regular and effectual support of the order of the Society, besides the usual meetings for the purpose of divine worship, others for the exercise of our Discipline are instituted, subordinate to each other, as : First—Preparative Meetings, which commonly consist of the members of a meeting for worship ; Secondly—Monthly Meetings or Executive Meetings which generally consist of several Preparative Meetings ; Thirdly—Quarterly and Half-Yearly, Meetings, consisting of several Monthly Meetings ; and Fourthly—The Yearly Meeting, consisting of all the Quarterly and Half Yearly Meetings.

These Meetings have distinct allotments of service ; and experience has abundantly shown that when they are attended in humility and the love of the Lord, with an eye single to His honor, and the benefit and edification one of another, they do not require man to preside in them ; being favored with spiritual aid and direction from the Holy Head, by which Friends are preserved in harmony and christian condescension. It is, therefore, the indispensable duty of Friends, in their meet-

ings for the exercise of the Discipline, humbly to wait for divine influence, which will endue with patience, and qualify them in their several stations and movements, to build up one another in "that faith which works by love to the purifying of the heart."

"Finally, Brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report ; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think of these things."

NOTE.

In accordance with the declaration of the apostle, that male and female are one in Christ, the following rules of Discipline are to be understood as alike applicable to both sexes, although the masculine gender is generally made use of.

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP.

Friends are affectionately and pressingly advised duly to attend all our public meetings held for the solemn purpose of divine worship ; and carefully to avoid permitting any slight pretence or worldly business to occasion their absence from them ; or induce them to

leave their children, or those placed under their care, engaged in their temporal concerns ; bearing in remembrance that the solemn inquiry will be made, "What hast thou done with those lambs committed to thy care ?" Happy will it be for those who feel the supporting evidence, that they have endeavored, in preference to all other concerns, to train them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

When assembled, Friends should be diligent in waiting upon the Lord, with fervent desires to be favored with the enjoyment of His life-giving presence, and to be preserved from wandering thoughts, and from a lukewarm and drowsy state. Thus, tender-hearted inquirers would be encouraged to come and partake, in our solemn assemblies, of that inward and spiritual refreshment, which is at times graciously imparted to the souls of the humbly devoted, who are taught by experience that faithfulness in devoting time to the attendance of religious Meetings, qualifies them to fulfil, with more propriety, the duties they owe to God, to their families and to mankind.

Those who frequently neglect, or do not seasonably attend our religious Meetings, or go out and in, unnecessarily, or otherwise disturb them, should be cautioned and admonished ; and parents and heads of families are exhorted to have a religious care, in these respects, over their children and those who are under their tuition.

MEETINGS FOR DISCIPLINE.

Meeting for Discipline having by long experience been found of manifest benefit to those who are concerned to attend them, as well as to the Society at large, Friends are entreated to be diligent in this important duty, and to encourage the attendance of the youth.

Meetings for Discipline are subordinate and accountable in the following manner : Preparative meetings to the monthly meeting, or executive meetings ; monthly and executive meeting to the quarterly and half-yearly meeting ; and quarterly and half-yearly meetings to the yearly meeting.

No quarterly or half yearly meeting is to be set up or discontinued but by the yearly meeting ; no monthly or executive meeting, but by the quarterly or half-yearly meeting ; no preparative meeting, or a meeting for worship, but by the monthly or executive meeting, with the approbation of the quarterly or half-yearly meeting ; and if at any time the yearly meeting be dissatisfied with the proceedings of any of the said meetings ; or a quarterly or half-yearly meeting with the proceedings of any of its monthly or executive meetings ; or a monthly or executive meeting with the proceedings of any of its preparative meetings ; they are to render a full and clear

account when required. Each preparative, monthly, executive, quarterly or half-yearly meeting, may change the hour and day of holding their meetings as shall best suit their convenience, but when any meeting makes such a change it shall forward information thereof to its superior meeting.

Executive meetings are composed of the members of one or more meetings for worship or preparative meetings, and have the authority and general constitution of monthly meetings.

These meetings are to be held once in three months, at suitable times preceding the quarterly or half-yearly meeting to which they are to report. Additional meetings may be held whenever necessary, upon call of the overseers, announced at the close of a meeting for worship.

Monthly meetings may be changed into executive meetings by obtaining the consent of the quarterly or half yearly meeting.

Each established meeting for worship should be a preparative meeting, except in cases where a monthly or executive meeting shall judge it inexpedient.

Business from persons not of our society should be brought to the preparative meeting by the overseers.

As the use and design of preparative meetings are, in general, to prepare business for monthly or executive meetings, Friends should be careful not to

occasion unnecessary delay ; and preparative meetings are not to receive or disown members, nor decide in any case which ought to claim the attention of monthly or executive meetings ; and each preparative meeting should keep a record of its proceedings.

While the case of a delinquent is before the meeting, he is not to attend any of our meetings for Discipline.

Each monthly and executive meeting should appoint a treasurer, who is to keep a regular account of all monies received and paid on behalf of the meeting.

Monthly and executive meetings should carefully endeavour to conclude such business as may come before them without unnecessary delay ; but should a monthly or executive meeting find a subject too weighty or difficult to decide upon, it may be removed to the quarterly or half-yearly meeting, and in like manner, after due care, the quarterly or half-yearly meeting may remove it to the yearly meeting ; except in a case where the privileges of an individual member are concerned so as to affect his right of appeal ; in such an instance, provided a monthly or executive meeting cannot decide, it may inform the quarterly or half-yearly meeting that a subject is before it in which it desires assistance ; and the quarterly or half-yearly meeting should appoint a committee to sit with and assist the monthly or executive meeting, and report their attendance ; the merits of the case

not to be adverted to, either in their report, or in the application of the monthly or executive meeting.

Records should be made in every monthly or executive and quarterly or half-yearly meeting, of such matters as come before, and are determined by them ; and they should, in all cases, contain a clear and explicit narrative.

Minutes and reports which are sent from one meeting to another should be signed by the Clerk.

Business from preparative to monthly and executive meetings, and from monthly and executive to quarterly and half-yearly meetings, should, in general, be read at the opening of the respective meetings to which it is forwarded ; together with the minutes of the proceeding monthly, executive, quarterly, and half-yearly meeting.

It is advised, that, in general, two representatives be appointed by each preparative meeting, to attend the monthly or executive meeting, unless the monthly or executive meeting be composed of only one preparative meeting ; each monthly or executive meeting is to appoint two or more representatives to attend the quarterly or half-yearly meeting ; and at least four representatives should be appointed by each quarterly and half-yearly meeting, to attend the yearly meeting. Representatives are to present to the meetings they are appointed to attend, such business as shall be given them in charge, which shall be in writing ; and

it is earnestly desired that they weightily consider the importance of their appointment.

Committees should enter seasonably on the business of their appointment, and agree on a report, to be made verbally by one of their number, or in writing, if the case require it ; and when they report the business unaccomplished, they should offer reasons there for, that the meeting may be satisfied there has been no unprofitable delay.

When Friends appointed to services are prevented from attending to them, (and it is expected that nothing but sickness, or other extraordinary cause will prevent them) they should render an account thereof to the meeting appointing them ; and, if they are representatives, they are also to render an account to the meeting which they were appointed to attend. And it is advised that Friends do not, unnecessarily, withdraw from their meeting until the business be finished.

Lest the progress of truth in our religious Society be obstructed by injudicious appointments to services in the Church, Friends are advised to be weighty in their nominations ; that spiritually-minded persons, concerned to walk consistently with their profession, may be separated to the service of the Society ; for the right maintenance of our christian discipline, in its various branches, very much depends on a solemn attention to the pointings of divine wisdom therein.

In order that our christian discipline may be supported agreeably to the design of its institution, it is important that quarterly and half-yearly meetings should wait for the influence of the Spirit of Truth that they may be qualified to administer such advice and assistance to monthly and executive meetings, as circumstances shall require ; and monthly and executive meetings should also be impressed with the necessity of a close attention to the tenor and spirit of the discipline ; as much depends on their care and concern for the support and maintenance of the wholesome regulations recommended for general use and practice.

It is earnestly desired, that religiously concerned members in the Society consider the need there is of faithfulness on their part in discharging with diligence and circumspection the trust committed to them ; as the welfare of our religious Society, and the support of the various testimonies borne by it to the world, materially depend upon their devotedness to the Lord's work and service.

Agreeably to the conclusion of our Yearly Meeting men and women stand on the equal footing of common interest and common right, and our yearly, half-yearly, quarterly, monthly, executive and preparative meetings are to be held by them jointly.

MEETINGS FOR MINISTERS AND ELDERS.

When the preparative meeting of Ministers and Elders, constituted as hereafter directed, shall, after a due and weighty consideration regarding the public appearance of any Friend in the ministry, be united in believing that the gift conferred is sufficient, and evidence has been given of such a maturity of it, as to warrant it in proposing to the monthly or executive meeting for discipline, the consideration of acknowledging the Friend a Minister; it is to inform the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders. If the Quarterly Meeting concurs with the proposal, it is to give the information to the monthly or quarterly meeting of which the Friend is a member. The Monthly or Executive meeting, upon the reception of such information, is to appoint a committee to whom the subject is to be referred, and all objections against the acknowledgment of the Friend a Minister, shall be made to that committee, who are to carefully and deliberately consider them, as well as the propriety of the acknowledgment, and report their judgment thereon to the Monthly or Executive Meeting.

If, after receiving the report of the committee and carefully and weightily considering the subject, the monthly or executive meeting unites in approving the Ministry of the Friend, it is to inform the Preparative meeting of Ministers and Elders.

Mouthly and Executive Meetings shall once in three years, and oftener if circumstances require, appoint a committee of Men and Women Friends to consider of and report the names of two or more Friends of each sex, to fill the station of Elders.

The names are to be reported to the meeting where they shall be weightily and deliberately considered, and if approved they are to be considered members of the meeting for Ministers and Elders, until the expiration of the triennial term, unless sooner released, but they shall not, by the expiration of said triennial term, be considered ineligible for a reappointment, and information thereof shall be communicated to the Preparative Meeting of Ministers and Elders.— Should any objections be made in the monthly or executive meeting to the persons nominated by the committee, said objections shall be referred to a committee appointed to hear them, and said committee shall carefully consider such objections, and report to the monthly or executive meeting whether they regard them as valid or not, and the monthly or executive meeting shall approve of the appointment or not as its judgment shall deem best.

When Elders remove from one monthly or executive meeting to another, they are not to be recommended as Elders to the monthly or executive meeting to which they remove.

No Friend is to travel abroad as a Minister, or appoint meetings, unless previously recommended by the monthly or executive meeting ; but it is not hereby intended to debar a Friend, not recommended, from accompanying, in a short journey, a recommended Minister traveling in the ministry ; or, in a more extensive one, if he obtain the concurrence of the monthly or executive meeting ; and, in a minute given him, nothing should be mentioned relative to his ministry.

When a Minister has a religious concern to travel in the ministry within the limits of the quarterly or half-yearly meeting to which he belongs, the approbation of the monthly or executive meeting should be obtained, except in appointing a few meetings near home, when the consent of the Ministers and Elders of his own particular meeting will be sufficient ; if his concern be to travel in other parts of the yearly meeting, a certificate or minute will be requisite, unless, in making a visit in a neighboring quarterly or half-yearly meeting, the monthly or executive meeting should judge a minute unnecessary.

Should a minister have a concern to make an extensive visit, amongst those not of our society, or a general visit in another yearly meeting, the concur-

rence of the quarterly or half-yearly meeting is to be obtained, and endorsed on the monthly or executive meeting's certificate, signed by the clerks, unless from some peculiar circumstances the monthly or executive meeting should conclude that too great inconvenience would result from his waiting for the quarterly or half-yearly meeting ; the certificate of the monthly or executive meeting is to be signed by the clerks or by the meeting more at large, as the case may require.

When a Minister has a concern to make a religious visit to Europe, or to other foreign parts, as the clearest evidence should be obtained in the undertaking, the concern, together with the certificates of the monthly, executive, quarterly or half-yearly meetings, is to be laid before the yearly meeting for its approbation, and, if that be obtained, a certificate thereof, signed by the clerks, should be given.

As the performance of religious visits to families is a service which, under right direction, has proved useful and instructive, for the encouragement of Ministers, it is advised, that those who have a concern to make a general visit of this kind, even in the monthly or executive meeting to which they belong, should have the concurrence of the meeting ; and if the concern extend to the families in another monthly or executive meeting, a minute of concurrence ought to be obtained.

Should a Minister, when remote from home, on ap-

pointments of the yearly meeting, or representative committee, have a concern to appoint a few meetings, he is at liberty to proceed therein, after obtaining the approbation of the committee in company, together with such other Friends as can be conveniently consulted.

In order to guard against impositions, Friends are advised, when strangers come amongst them in the capacity of Ministers, to see that they are furnished with minutes or certificates.

Monthly and executive meetings should take care that Friends to whom certificates or minutes to travel have been granted, return them seasonably.

As the occasion of our religious meetings are solemn, a care should be maintained to guard against every thing tending to disorder or interruption ; none are to oppose, in a religious meeting, a Friend when publicly speaking, whether he be a recommended Minister or not, whilst in unity as a member ; but should any Friend have objections to what is delivered, he is to speak to the individual privately ; previous to which, it is advised, that the dissatisfaction be communicated to one or more of the Elders for advice and assistance.

When meetings are disturbed by improper communications, it should be the care of the Ministers and Elders to take suitable opportunities with the person who has given cause for concern, and to extend advice and counsel as may appear necessary ; and if he con-

tinue to disturb our meetings for worship, he should be further admonished ; and provided the desired effect should not be produced, the case should be laid before the preparative meeting of Ministers and Elders, that farther care may be extended ; but should the Friend still persist therein, this meeting ought to lay it before the monthly or executive meeting for discipline, which should proceed to labor with him or her to convince them of the impropriety of their conduct, that they may be restored to harmony with the body.

As much depends on the conduct and example of Ministers and Elders, meetings have been established amongst them for the purpose of examining whether they are all preserved in an exemplary walking, answerable to their station ; where advice and caution may be administered for the help and strength one of another, as may appear necessary ; and with this view the following queries are recommended to be read and answered in them :

QUERY I. Are Ministers and Elders diligent in attending meetings for worship and discipline, and careful to encourage their families to attend them ?

II. Are Ministers careful to minister in the ability which Truth gives, avoiding tones, unbecoming gestures, and enlarging their testimonies so as to become burdensome ?

III. Are the Elders careful to encourage those young in the ministry whose communications give

evidence of right authority, and do they discourage forward persons whose communications do not give such evidence ?

IV. Are Ministers and Elders preserved in love and fellowship one with another and with the meetings to which they belong, manifesting a religious concern for the advancement of Truth ?

V. Are they good examples in uprightness and moderation, and careful to instruct their families in the principles and testimonies of our religious society ?

The following advices are to be read in each preparative and quarterly meeting of Ministers and Elders after reading and answering the queries, viz :

1. Let Ministers in their testimonies be cautious of using unnecessary preambles, and of asserting too positively a Divine impulse ; the baptizing power of Truth accompanying their words being the true evidence,

2. They are advised to read the Scriptures of Truth frequently ; and be careful not to misquote nor misapply them.

3. Let Ministers be careful how they enter upon disputed points in their testimonies or of making objections they do not clearly answer.

4. Let all be cautious of interrupting the solemnity of meetings by unnecessary additions towards the conclusion.

5. And lastly, let all dwell in that life which gives ability to labor successfully in the church of Christ, adorning the doctrine they deliver to others, by being good examples in deed, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, and in purity of life.

The meetings of Ministers and Elders are constituted and held in the following manner, namely :

The Ministers and Elders of each monthly or executive meeting are to meet once in three months, and compose a preparative meeting of Ministers and Elders ; unless the quarterly or half-yearly meeting for discipline, from some peculiar circumstances, should judge it most advisable that it be constituted of the Ministers and Elders of more than one monthly or executive meeting ; and after some time spent in solid retirement, they are to read the aforesaid Queries, and prepare answers suitable to their state. Each preparative meeting is to appoint a suitable number of representatives to attend the quarterly meeting of Ministers and Elders, and to lay before it the answers to the queries, and such other business as the preparative meeting may direct. The quarterly meeting is composed of all the preparative meetings of Ministers and Elders within the limits of the quarterly or half-yearly meeting for discipline ; and the queries, with the answers from the preparative meetings, are to be read in that meeting, and the substance of them entered on its minutes ; a summary of the answers received

at the quarterly meeting preceding the yearly meeting is to be sent by the representatives to the yearly meeting of Ministers and Elders ; by which an opportunity will be furnished for the extension of such advice and care as may appear necessary.

The meetings of Ministers and Elders are not to interfere with any part of the exercise of the discipline of the Church, appertaining to meetings for discipline.

Preparative meetings of Ministers and Elders are desired to have a watchful care over the members of their meetings ; and should any of them, by negligence, unfaithfulness, or otherwise, lose their usefulness, so as to render it advisable that they should be released from their stations : the said meetings, if their brotherly care toward them do not produce the desired effect, are to put the cases in a way to come before the monthly or executive meeting, in order that they may be released from being members of the meeting of Ministers and Elders, should the monthly or executive meeting deem it necessary.

As the Author of all Good continues from time to time to open amongst us the spring of living ministry, it is fervently desired, that Ministers and Elders may so dwell under the Divine influence as to be enabled to discern when offerings proceed from the right source, and when they do not, and thus experience a qualification to be nursing fathers and mothers to those who are young in the ministry ; with gentleness and wis-

dom advising and encouraging them to abide in simple and patient submission to the will of God, and to keep to the openings of Divine love in themselves in order that they may witness a gradual growth in their gifts.

Ministers and Elders are tenderly advised to watch over the flock in their respective places and stations, evincing, by their pious example in conduct and conversation, that they are faithfully devoted to support the testimonies of the blessed Truth.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE.

In order that the Yearly Meeting may be properly represented in its intervals, a committee of Friends is to be appointed by said meeting once in three years to meet at such time and place as it may direct or authorize, by the name of the Representative Committee.

The following directions are to be observed by the Representative Committee :

- 1st. It shall keep minutes of its proceedings, and lay them annually before the yearly meeting.
- 2d. Eight members shall constitute a meeting capable of transacting business.

3d. Four members may call a special meeting when they shall judge it necessary.

4th. Provided a vacaney occur by the decease or removal of a member, the said committee is to notify the yearly meeting of such death or removal, in order that the vacaney may be filled up by a new appointment.

The services confided to the Representative Committee are :—

1st. In general, to represent the yearly meeting, and to act on its behalf in cases where the interest or reputation of our religious society may render it necessary.

2d. To have the oversight and inspection of all manuscripts proposed to be printed, relating to our religious principles or testimonies, and to promote or discourage the publication of them at their discretion ; to reprint and distribute any writings already published, which they may judge would be useful ; and when expenses are incurred in the execution of these duties, they are to draw on the treasurer of the yearly meeting for the amount.

3d. To inspect and ascertain titles to land, or other estates belonging to any of our meetings ; and to attend to the appropriation of charitable legacies and donations.

4th. To receive from the quarterly or half-yearly

meetings, such memorials concerning deceased Friends as shall be forwarded ; that, after the necessary inspection and correction, they may be laid before the yearly meeting ; unless, in some cases, the said Committee should on solid consideration, judge it inexpedient.

5th. To extend such advice and assistance to persons under sufferings for our testimonies, as their cases may require ; and to apply to the Government, or persons in authority, on these and other occasions as they may judge necessary.

6th. To correspond, as occasion may require, with other Representative Committees.

Any member who feels a concern shall be at liberty to attend the sittings of this meeting.

OVERSEERS.

Although it is the duty of every faithful member of our society to advise and admonish those who are guilty of unbecoming or disorderly conduct ; yet that it may not be overlooked or neglected, it should be more particularly the business of overseers ; who, it is desired, may treat with them, in the spirit of meekness and restoring love, patiently endeavoring to in-

struct and advise them ; but should their labor prove ineffectual, the preparative meeting should, in due season, be informed of the cases, that, if necessary, they may be laid before the monthly or executive meeting.

Two or more faithful and judicious Friends should be appointed by the monthly or executive meeting to be overseers in each preparative meeting ; who ought to exercise a tender and vigilant care over their fellow members, that if any thing contrary to the harmony and good order of our religious society appear, it may be seasonably attended to.

Although it is considered necessary that overseers should be invested with some discretionary power, yet, as the reputation of the society may sometimes suffer by their retaining cases too long, and as delinquents may not be benefited by the indulgence, overseers are advised to a due and careful consideration of the important trust committed to them, and of the responsibility of their station, that cases may not be unseasonably kept from the meeting.

Monthly and executive meetings are earnestly desired to give weighty attention to the pointings of Wisdom in their choice for this important service in the church ; that those may be appointed, whose concern for the support of our christian testimony, in its various branches, may tend to the preservation of good order.

As great care and deliberation are necessary in appointing overseers, it is advised, as a safe and prudent step, that monthly and executive meetings appoint a committee to take the subject into consideration ; and, at the succeeding meeting, to propose such Friends as they may agree upon to fill the station in each preparative meeting, and the names should be separately proposed and considered.

QUERIES.

The seven following Queries are to be distinctly read, and deliberately considered in each preparative monthly or executive meeting before the quarterly or half-yearly meeting immediately preceding the yearly meeting, and before the half-yearly and second quarterly meeting succeeding the yearly meeting, in order that Friends may be led into an individual examination whether their practice is consistent with their profession, and that Ministers, Elders, Overseers and other concerned Friends, may be incited to discharge their duty in faithfully administering counsel, admonition and encouragement.

In order to convey to each half-yearly and quarterly meeting in which the queries are to be read ; a general account of the state of our society, full and explicit

answers are to be given, by each preparative meeting preceding the monthly or executive meeting, which precedes the half-yearly meeting or the second quarterly meeting subsequent to the yearly meeting, to the first, second, third, and seventh queries, and these answers are to be digested in the monthly or executive meeting and concise summaries of them forwarded to the half-yearly or quarterly meeting, when they are in like manner to be read and considered. And once in the year, namely in the preparative, monthly or executive meetings before the half-yearly or quarterly meeting which precedes the yearly meeting. The first seven queries are in like manner to be read and considered ; and each of them to be particularly and distinctly answered, and summaries of the answers to be forwarded by the half-yearly or quarterly meetings to the yearly meeting, in order that they may convey to it a clear account of the state of Society within its limits. The eighth query is to be read and answered in the monthly or executive, quarterly, and half-yearly meetings preceding the yearly meeting :

FIRST QUERY—Are Friends diligent in the attendance of all our meetings for worship and discipline; is the hour observed, and do they avoid all unbecoming behavior in them ?

SECOND QUERY—Do Friends maintain love and fellowship towards each other as becomes our Christian profession ? When differences arise is due care taken speedily to end them, and do they avoid and discourage tale-bearing and detraction ?

THIRD QUERY.—Are Friends clear of the use of all intoxicating liquors as a beverage ? Are they thoughtful to extend a proper influence towards total abstinence in their neighborhoods, and to give due help and encouragement to the intemperate for their reformation ; and do they avoid frequenting taverns and attending places of diversion of demoralizing tendencies ?

FOURTH QUERY.—Are the circumstances of the poor and of those who appear likely to require assistance, duly inspected, is relief reasonably afforded them ? Are they advised and assisted in such employments as they are capable of ; and are their children acquiring an education sufficient to fit them for business ?

FIFTH QUERY.—Do our members maintain a faithful testimony in favor of a free gospel ministry resting upon Divine qualification alone ; and do they bear a faithful testimony against war, oaths and all forms of oppression.

SIXTH QUERY.—Are Friends careful to be just in their dealings and punctual in complying with their engagements ; to live within the bounds of their circumstances ; and to avoid involving themselves in business beyond their ability to manage as becomes our christian profession ; and when any give occasion for fear in these respects are they timely admonished and advised for their preservation, or for their recovery ?

SEVENTH QUERY—Is care taken seasonably to labor with delinquents, in the spirit of meekness, for their restoration ?

EIGHTH QUERY—Are the answers to the queries forwarded by subordinate to superior meetings the substance of, and founded on the answers from the preparative meetings ?

ADVICES.

The following advices are to be read and carefully considered in the preparative, monthly, or executive, quarterly and half-yearly meetings, after the queries are answered.

Friends are advised frequently to read the Scriptures of Truth, and to encourage the practice in others : to prevent the introduction of pernicious literature into their families by supplying that which is profitable and inviting in its stead ; to be guarded in their conduct and conversation, and to avoid the vain fashions and customs of the world ; to inspect frequently the state of their temporal affairs, and to be always provided with wills agreeably to the tenor of the discipline on that subject.

Friends are earnestly advised to keep themselves in plainness of speech, deportment, and apparel becoming

our christian profession, and to use their endeavors with their children to induce them to also observe this testimony.

It is also desired that our members do not violate our testimony against war in any respect, and that when any are brought into suffering on this account they may manifest a disposition comporting with our christian profession.

Friends are most earnestly counseled to abstain from partaking of any intoxicating liquors as a beverage, to avoid renting their property for their sale, or selling their grain or other produce used in their manufacture for such purposes, and to avoid the use of Tobacco in any form.

Due care should be taken that our members are clear of being concerned in lotteries, or in any schemes of like character, and that none are concerned in illegal trade or dealing in prize goods.

Friends should endeavor in all their dealings to maintain a truly christian character ; bearing in mind the injunction, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

The following recommendation is to be read in the preparative, monthly or executive, quarterly, and half-yearly meetings in which the queries are answered preceding the yearly meeting.

Friends should avoid all contention and personal

reflections in our meetings for discipline; and be careful to keep out of all exciting discussions in them; that they may be conducted in the peaceable spirit and wisdom of Jesus, with propriety, forbearance, and love for each other.

TREATING WITH DELINQUENTS.

It is advised that delinquents be treated with in a christian spirit, and in the persuasive language of love and tenderness; that the evil of their conduct may be laid before them, in order to bring them to a sense of it in themselves, and to promote their restoration.

Should those who transgress manifest a spirit of opposition, yet we ought patiently and meekly to instruct and advise them, that we may not only have the reward of peace in ourselves, but that it may so affect the spirits of those spoken to, as to make them sensible that we have performed a christian duty, and an office of brotherly love towards them. If any reject this tender labor, the overseers are to acquaint the preparative meeting thereof in order, if necessary, that the case may be forwarded to the monthly or executive meeting; that further care may be taken, according to our established rules; and notice should be given to the party, when it can reasonable be

done, previous to its being laid before the preparative meeting.

In all cases, when it appears to a monthly or executive meeting, that the necessary labor has been bestowed on a delinquent member, and it apprehends it right that he should be disowned, the monthly or executive meeting is to appoint a committee to have a suitable interview with him, to inform him of the judgment of the meeting ; and furnish him with a copy of the complaint against him, if required, and acquaint him with the privilege of appealing.

On this occasion, it is particularly desirable that the committee should endeavor to leave him in a tender disposition of mind.

Persons who have been disowned, and wish to become members, stand on the ground of requesters.

If any member of our society should be guilty of gross or notorious crimes, or such disorderly and indecent practices as occasion public scandal ; he should be specially labored with by the monthly or executive meeting ; and if he cannot be brought to a proper sense of his misconduct, he should be disowned.

For the maintenance of our testimony against war, as well as against matters which are publicly known to be scandalous or inconsistent, monthly and executive meetings are at liberty to disown members who have been guilty of such misconduct, and afterwards abscond or depart from amongst us, and thus deprive

Friends of an opportunity of discharging the care they might otherwise extend.

When a person commits an offense within the verge of a monthly or executive meeting where he resides, but of which he is not a member by the rules of settlement, the overseers of that meeting are to treat with him, provided they are satisfied he is a member of our society, and if the case be of such a nature that it ought to be laid before a meeting for discipline, they are to inform the overseers of the meeting of which he is a member ; and if said meeting should request the monthly or executive meeting where he resides to deal with him on their behalf, such meeting may, after the extension of the necessary care, proceed to disown him, if the case requires it, and the result of their labor shall be communicated to the meeting of which he was a member.

Should any member of our society become dissatisfied with retaining his right of membership, he is to be released on his application to the monthly or executive meeting in writing ; if, after the necessary care of a committee, in his case, he shall still desire it ; and should any member unite with any other religious society the monthly or executive meeting may erase their names from the records.

APPEALS

If any person be dissatisfied with the judgment of a monthly or executive meeting, he may notify the first or second meeting thereafter, but no other, of his intention to appeal to the next ensuing quarterly or half-yearly meeting ; which notification the monthly or executive meeting should enter on its minutes, and appoint four or more Friends to attend the quarterly or half-yearly meeting with copies of the minutes relative to the case, and give such explanations as may be necessary.

The quarterly or half-yearly meeting is to refer the subject to a committee, (omitting the members of the monthly or executive meeting appealed from,) who are carefully and deliberately to consider the case, and report their judgment respecting it ; and the quarterly or half-yearly meeting shall confirm or reverse the judgment of the monthly or executive meeting, as, on impartial deliberation, shall appear to be right, and inform the appellant of the result.

Should the appellant be dissatisfied with the judgment of the quarterly or half yearly meeting, and notify the next quarterly or half-yearly meeting, or the one succeeding it, but not afterwards, of his inten-

tion to apply to the yearly meeting for a further hearing. the quarterly or half-yearly meeting should record the notification, and appoint four or more Friends to attend the yearly meeting, with copies of the monthly or executive and quarterly or half-yearly meetings' minutes in the case ; and the decision of the yearly meeting shall be final.

It shall be the duty of appellants to furnish the meeting appealed to with a written notification of their intention to prosecute their appeal ; and they have a right to be present during the appointment of the committee in their cases ; and objections which they may then make to persons nominated on the committee are to be considered by the meeting, and if they appear consistent the person or persons objected to shall not be placed on the committee.

WAR.

Consonant with the precepts and doctrines of the gospel, which breathes peace on earth and good-will towards men, we have found it to be our indispensable duty to bear a faithful testimony against war : it is, therefore, affectionately enjoined on the members of our Society, to demean themselves, on all occasions, in a christian and peaceable manner, demonstrating to

the world, that they are uniform in profession and practice. Friends are earnestly advised not to unite with any, directly or indirectly, in a way calculated to promote the spirit of war, or which may encourage or strengthen them therein ; to avoid engaging in any business tending to promote war, underwriting on armed vessels, or being concerned in any company where such insurance is made, or shipping or ordering goods shipped, in armed vessels.

But should members of our society be so unmindful of our christian testimony against war, as to bear arms, or actively comply with military requisitions, be concerned in warlike preparations, offensive or defensive, by sea or land, pay a fine, penalty, or tax, in lieu of personal service, deal in prize goods, directly or indirectly, or be concerned in promoting the publication of writings which tend to excite the spirit of war ; advice should be speedily given them : and they tenderly treated with, in order to bring them to a sense of their error, in departing from this distinguishing testimony of the soeiety.

OATHS.

Our testimony against oaths is founded upon the following express and positive command of Jesus : "Ye

"have heard that it has been said by them of old time,
"thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform
"unto the Lord thine oaths; but I say unto you, swear
"not at all ; neither by Heaven, for it is God's throne ;
"nor by the earth, for it is his footstool ; neither by
"Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King ;
"neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou
"canst not make one hair white or black : but let
"your communication be yea, yea, nay, nay ; for
"whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."—
Matth. v. 33 to 37.

This testimony, we also find, was clearly held up and emphatically enjoined by the apostle James upon his christian brethren : "But above all things, my brethren, swear not ; neither by heaven, neither by
"the earth, neither by any other oath ; but let your
"yea be yea, and your nay, nay, lest ye fall into
"condemnation."—James v. 12.

Believing that no argument can invalidate prohibitions, thus clear and positive, we are bound religiously to regard them.

But should any member of our society so far disregard our testimony herein, as in any case to take or administer an oath, he should be admonished and persuaded to avoid such practices in the future.

SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS.

In consideration of the corrupting and ruinous effects produced by the use of intoxicating drinks, resulting in the destruction of those noble powers given to man by his Creator, for wise and benevolent purposes, it is affectionately desired that none in membership with us contribute to the spreading of this great evil by the use of such drinks as a beverage, or by being concerned in the importation, distillation or manufacture and sale of spirituous or malt liquors, or by renting their property for any of these purposes ; but if any should so far disregard the concern of the Society as to be concerned in them, or unnecessarily use it themselves, or furnish it to those in their employ, or sell their grain or other produce for the purpose of the manufacture of such liquors, they should be carefully and tenderly labored with that they may be induced to desist from such practices.

TAVERNS.

The youth as well as those of riper age, are cautioned against unnecessarily frequenting taverns, and other places of public resort ; that they may not be exposed to noisy company and unprofitable conversation, or

betrayed into the use of intoxicating drinks ; by which many have been corrupted in principle and practice, to the ruin of themselves and their families.

If any give way to these evil practices, they should be timely and tenderly treated with, in order to convince them of their danger.

GAMING AND DIVERSIONS.

Friends are not to attend places of diversion of an immoral character, or those that are demoralizing in their tendency, or practice any other kind of gaming ; but should any be concerned in, or give way to either of those practices they should be labored with in the spirit of love to convince them of their misconduct and for their restoration ; and if their participations therein has been such as to be immoral, and they cannot be convinced of their error after an extension of proper care, they should be discontinued as members.

DEFAMATION AND DETRACTION.

Should any of our members be guilty of tale-bearing, traducing, or speaking evil of others, or busily meddling with their affairs, when not concerned, tending to excite strife and discord, or cause disesteem amongst

brethren or neighbors; they are to be suitably treated with ; and, if they do not make satisfaction, they should be disowned.

Friends are exhorted to act with due circumspection, that, in their conversation and conduct amongst men, they may do nothing to the hurt or reproach of any ; and should a Friend hear of a scandalous and injurious report of another, he ought to disowne it, by showing the reporter the evil and injustice thereof ; and then, without spreading it, he should go to the person whom it concerns, or advise him of it, that he may have an opportunity to clear himself, if innocent, or make satisfaction if guilty : and should this private labor prove ineffectual, the overseers ought to be informed, that he may be treated with consistently with our discipline.

MINISTRY.

As it is by the immediate teaching and influence of the Holy Spirit, that acceptable worship is performed, and gospel ministry brought forth ; as this powerful influence is the essential qualification for the work ; and as the gift is divine, the service is freely and faithfully to be performed without any view to reward from man, agreeably to the express command

of Jesus, "Freely ye have received, freely give." Matt. 10th, 8. When any of our members so disregard this testimony as to contribute to the support of a paid ministry as such, or employ such a minister to accomplish their marriages, such conduct being disregarded as inconsistent with our testimony for a free gospel ministry, they are to be labored with in tenderness and love that they may be convinced of their error and restored to harmony with the body.

MARRIAGES.

Unmarried persons, in membership with us, before they make any procedure with a view to marriage, should seek for right direction in this important concern, should early acquaint their parents or guardians with their intentions, and wait for their consent ; by which they may be preserved from the dangerous bias of forward and uncertain affections.

Proposals of marriage are to be presented in writing to the preparative meeting of which the woman is a member, signed by the parties, in substance, as follows :

To the Monthly or Executive Meeting of —

We, the subscribers, A. B., son of C. & D. B. ; and E. G., daughter of H. & I. G., purpose taking each

other in marriage ; which we hereby offer for the approbation of Friends.

(Signed,)

A. B.

F. G.

Should the parties be members of one monthly or executive meeting, the preparative meeting is to appoint two or more Friends, to see if the way be clear for the man's proceeding in marriage ; and a similar care should be taken by the meeting, concerning the woman. If she be a widow, having children, two or more Friends should also be appointed to see that their rights are legally secured.

The preparative meeting is to forward the said written proposals, together with the names of the committee appointed in the case, to the next monthly or executive meeting ; when the said committee are required to report, and where consent of parents or guardians is also to be produced, and the parties are to be present ; should they be members of different monthly or executive meetings, the man is to produce to the monthly or executive meeting a certificate from the monthly or executive meeting of which he is a member, to be applied for at the preparative meeting to which he belongs, and obtained as in the above case, expressive of his clearness from other like engagements ; and should the committee report that there appears to be no obstruction to their proceeding,

the meeting is to leave them at liberty to accomplish their marriage according to the order of our society, either at a public meeting of Friends, or at such other suitable place, and at such time, as the monthly or executive meeting may approve.

Marriages should be accomplished with a gravity and weight becoming the occasion ; and the parties and others concerned, are to exercise due care that no cause of reproach take place by any disorderly conduct, but that all behave with that order and sobriety which become our religious profession.

And for the assistance of those immediately concerned, two men and two women Friends are to be appointed, by the monthly or executive meeting, to attend at the marriage, and should they, or other Friends, observe any inconsistent conduct, they ought as soon as they conveniently can, to admonish those who are disorderly ; and the Friends appointed to attend at the marriage, are to report to the next monthly or executive meeting whether it has been conducted according to good order, and whether the marriage certificate is handed to the Recorder.

Friends are advised to avoid making expensive entertainments, and inviting large companies.

Marriage implies union, as well in spiritual as temporal concerns. While the parties differ in religious principles, they stand disunited in the main point, even in that which should increase and confirm their

mutual happiness, and render them helpmates and blessings to each other.

It is therefore earnestly recommended, that parents, and those who have the important charge of educating youth, instruct them early in the principles of truth, and impress their minds with the necessity of religiously observing them. And when it is apprehended that any are likely to form improper connexions, it becomes the duty, not only of parents, but other concerned Friends; as soon as may be, in a gentle, tender manner, to labor with them, and endeavor to show them the inconsistency and danger thereof.

When a member of our society has a prospect of accomplishing a marriage with a person not in membership with us, should the latter be of orderly life and conversation, and the parties desire to accomplish it according to our order, monthly or executive meetings may permit them to proceed, in the same manner as if both were members, the same care being observed throughout. In such cases the member remains such, but the other is not thereby constituted a member.

In order to prevent marriages between persons of too near akin, it is advised that marriages between first cousins shall be avoided amongst us.

Monthly or executive meetings are not to permit proposals of marriage to be made in them sooner than a year after the decease of the husband or wife of the party.

No charge of misconduct should be brought forward against any person at the time of proposing his marriage, or during its progress in the meeting.

Form of Marriage Certificate.

**If there be parents and guardians, insert both; if only parents or only guardians, let it be so expressed.*

If the marriage is accomplished at a dwelling house, insert :—
At the dwelling house of in the town of in the presence of a committee appointed for that purpose by the monthly meeting of said society, and the said A, B.

like manner, declare, that she took the said A. B. to be her husband ; promising through Divine assistance, to be unto him a faithful and loving wife, until separated by death, or words to that effect. And they, the said A. B. and F. G., she, according to the custom of marriage, assuming the name of her husband, as a farther confirmation thereof, did then and there to these presents set their hands.

A. B.
F. B.

And we being present, have
subscribed our names as
witnesses thereof.

SPEECH, DEPORTMENT AND APPAREL.

As our general appearance in these matters is largely indicative of the condition of our minds, as well as helpful or otherwise to ourselves and others, as it conforms more or less to the high profession we make, we desire that our members shall be thoughtful in regard to the use of plain, kindly and honest words in their speech, avoiding extravagant phrases and formal compliments. When our minds are regulated by the spirit and purpose of the peaceable gospel taught by Jesus, we believe our speech will reflect with plainness and simplicity the kindness, courtesy, justice and

christian regard that lie back of it, in the soul thus taught.

Our deportment should be in keeping with our surroundings, serious and reverent in times of worship or solemnity, calm and just during our dealings or in controversy, willing and anxious to see the right on all sides, cheerful and kindly in the family and social relations, thoughtful of the different temperaments of individuals and differing ages, and upon all occasions avoiding hurtful conduct, and maintaining a true dignity becoming our profession.

In dress, decency, simplicity and utility should be observed as the essentials, neatness and good taste cultivated, and extravagance and foolish fashions avoided as being promoters of pride and vanity, and giving evidence of minds drawn aside from thoughts worthy of an intelligent, pure minded man or woman.

TRADE.

The manifestations of the spirit of truth, when duly regarded, lead out of bondage to the spirit of this world ; but the inordinate love and pursuit of worldly riches, often lead those who are captivated thereby into many difficulties and danger, and obstruct the work of religion in the heart : And in order that the

service of our religious society may not be lessened, nor its reputation dishonored, by the imprudence of its members in their worldly engagements, let them be careful not to engage in such business as they do not understand, and avoid extending their concerns beyond their abilities to manage, and at the risk of others ; and endeavor on all occasions, strictly to perform their promises, and fulfill their contracts.

It is particularly advised that none "make haste to be rich," by engaging in hazardous enterprises ; but that all content themselves with a plain and moderate way of living, consistent with our religious profession. When any amongst us err, or are in danger of erring, in these respects, let them be seasonably and faithfully admonished.

It is recommended that Friends annually inspect the state of their affairs and keep their accounts so clear and accurate, that they may, at any time, easily ascertain whether they live within the bounds of their circumstances.

When any find that there is danger of their not having sufficient property to discharge their just debts, they should immediately consult with some judicious Friends, and if they advise it, without loss of time, make their circumstances known to their creditors ; being careful to make a just and equal distribution, avoiding the too common and injurious practice of paying those who stand as securities, in preference to other creditors.

When any persons, by living above their means, or from a want of punctuality in fulfilling their contracts, give overseers sufficient cause to believe that they are declining in their circumstances, and likely to fail, it is advised that they be seasonably treated with ; and if it appear requisite, counseled to call their creditors together without delay.

If, notwithstanding this advice, they still persist, and run into embarrassment to the injury of others, and to their own disreputation, the monthly or executive meeting to which they belong, is to be timely informed thereof, and the meeting should proceed to treat with them for their restoration.

Cases of public failure in business should be brought to the monthly or executive meeting, unless in cases which are attended with such circumstances as shall induce the overseers and other concerned Friends, whom they may consult, to be united in prospect that it is unnecessary.

And when monthly or executive meeting, in examining the cases of those who have fallen short of the payment of their just debts, discover conduct which brings a reproach on our religious society, such delinquents, after the extension of suitable labor, should be disowned, unless they condemn their misconduct in a satisfactory manner.

When failures occur, and the cases are under the care of monthly or executive meetings, committees,

appointed to visit the parties, are to make due inquiry in what manner their accounts have been kept, and how their deficiencies have happened, and report accordingly.

Friends are advised to be cautious in receiving collections, or bequests, for the use of the poor, or other purposes of society, from persons who have fallen short of the payment of their just debts, although they may be legally discharged by the voluntary act of their creditors ; for, until such persons have discharged their debts, their possessions cannot, in equity, be called their own. When failures of this kind occur, and the debtors decline making further payments towards the remaining balances of their just debts, when of ability to do it, the overseers, after extending the necessary labor, should inform the monthly or executive meeting thereof, which ought to inquire into the cause; and if after a tender and brotherly examination, it should appear that their circumstances are such as to render it clearly advisable that a further payment be offered to the creditors, or that a statement of the debtors' affairs should be laid before the creditors, and the question submitted to them, whether a payment should be made at that time, or referred to a future day, let advice be given to them accordingly.

When Friends accept the office of trustee or assignee, they should be active in collecting the effects

of the estate, and punctual in making speedy distribution.

When any in profession with us are about entering into partnerships in trade, they should keep in view the propriety and safety of connecting themselves with members of our society ; but should any Friend become a partner with a person not in membership with us, and a failure in the performance of engagements, or neglect of the seasonable payment of just debts on the part of the said partnership, should give reasonable occasion for a procedure at law ; in such case, a creditor, who may be a member of our society, shall be at liberty to proceed in a legal way : it appearing very improper that the usual course of justice should be obstructed by any of our members connecting themselves with those who are not in profession with us.

And let all consider well the ground on which they become endorsers, or joint securities ; lest, for want of due consideration, any involve themselves and families in ruinous circumstances, and risk their own peace of mind.

It is affectionately desired, that Friends may be cautious in all their engagements, and not suffer their minds to be captivated by an inordinate desire of riches ; remembering the observation made by the Apostle, in his day, and often verified in ours, that "They who will be rich, fall into temptation and a

"snare :" and erring from the faith, "pierce themselves through with many sorrows."

Even when riches, to any extraordinary degree, have been amassed by the successful industry of parents; how often have they proved like wings to their children ; carrying them beyond the limitations of truth, into liberties inconsistent with our religious testimonies, and sometimes into enterprises, which have terminated in irreparable damage to their temporal affairs, and a sorrowful neglect of the great work of the soul's salvation.

PARENTS AND CHILDREN.

As, next to our own souls, our children are the immediate objects of our care and concern, parents and heads of families are entreated to carefully consider the great and lasting importance of a religious education to the youth ; and to be solicitous that their tender and susceptible minds may be impressed with virtuous principles, and a just sense of the Divine Being, His wisdom, goodness, power and omnipresence.

Although virtue does not descend by lineal succession, nor piety by inheritance, yet the Almighty graciously regards the sincere endeavors of those parents, whose early and pious care is over their offspring for

good. Be ye, therefore, examples to them in your meetings, your families, and employments. Keep them out of the vain fashions, the corrupt customs, and unprofitable conversation of the world ; laboring to convince their young and tender minds of the propriety of restraint, when necessary ; exhorting them in meekness, and commanding in wisdom ; and, as they advance in age, guard them against reading plays, romances, and all other publications of a nature prejudicial to the promotion of christianity ; likewise against public pastimes and diversions : all which have a tendency to draw the incautious mind from a sense of religious duty ; to bring it into a state of alienation from the divine life ; and to deprive it of that inexpressible comfort and delight attendant upon the daily exercise of religion and virtue. And be ye concerned to discharge your important and sacred duty with scrupulous attention. It is often too late to warn the youthful mind of danger, when your own negligence, or indulgence, hath suffered your offspring to deviate from the path of simplicity. If you fail to suppress the early beginnings of undue liberty, how can you expect a blessing on your endeavors, when farther deviations at length arouse your attention ? Early, therefore, add restraint to instruction, lest your children become so accustomed to improper indulgences, as to slight and disregard your authority, when its exertion has at length appeared to you absolutely necessary for their safety and preservation.

In much love to the rising generation, they are exhorted to avoid the many vanities and ensnaring corruptions to which they are exposed. Bear in mind, dear youth, that "the love of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Take the advice of religiously concerned parents, guardians, and friends ; ever remembering, that children ought to obey their parents in the Lord, and that disobedience herein is a breach of the moral and Divine law.

POOR.

The poor amongst us, claim, and ought to receive, our particular and tender care and attention ; and, in order that competent assistance may be afforded to this class, not only by relieving their immediate necessities, but by aiding them in such business as they may be best qualified for, each monthly or executive meeting should have seasonable collections made, and the money placed in the hands of the treasurer of said meeting, for the exclusive purpose of assisting those of this description ; and, as it is reasonable to expect, from the vicissitudes attending human life, that we shall always have more or less poor in our society, amongst whom may be some who have a peculiar claim to our sympathy, having to struggle with accu-

mulated difficulties to support themselves, and their families, it is affectionately desired, that Friends may show a liberality, proportionate to their means, in contributing to this benevolent purpose.

And, in order that this concern may be carried more fully into effect, a suitable number of judicious men and women Friends should be separated in each monthly or executive meeting, to inspect into the necessities of the poor, and those who may appear likely to require assistance ; and not only relieve their immediate necessities, but assist them in such employments as they may be capable of ; in doing which, they are to proceed with great tenderness to the feelings of those who are the objects of their appointment ; carefully avoiding any unnecessary disclosure of their names, or the assistance rendered them.

And that Friends, appointed to the oversight of the poor may be enabled to proceed in a manner above described, they should have the appropriation of the fund herein alluded to, and the drafts on the monthly or executive meeting's treasurer, signed by as many of the overseers of the poor as the monthly or executive meeting may think proper, should not designate the individuals to whom assistance is to be, or has been rendered ; but their proceedings are to be subject, at any time, to the inspection of a committee of the monthly or executive meeting.

When any Friend who may have become a delin-

quent demanding the care and labor of the society shall persistently refuse to accept such labor or advice for his or her restoration to unite with the body, or who shall remove without the limits of any monthly or executive meeting of Friends to whom a certificate of membership may be forwarded, and for a period of years hold no communication with the members of the meeting where they may be recorded as a member and shall by any means become needy, the monthly or executive meeting, of which they are members, shall not be chargeable for their support.

Overseers of the poor are to consider it their duty to give particular attention that the children of Friends in low circumstances be furnished with an opportunity of getting a competent portion of school learning, to fit them for business.

And Friends are advised, in disposing of their estates by will, to consider of the propriety of applying a portion thereof to the use of the poor ; which the establishment of this fund will afford an opportunity of doing, and placing their bequests under the immediate care of the Society ; and, to aid them therein, the following form of a bequest is inserted, namely :

I give and bequeath (or if it be land, I give and devise) unto A. B., treasurer of the fund established by the monthly or executive meeting of _____, of the religious society of Friends, for the relief of poor Friends, and the assistance of those who are in strait-

ened circumstances, within the limits of the said monthly or executive meeting, and to his successor and successors in that trust ; and, if the said monthly or executive meeting should be discontinued, the said bequest, (or devise), is to go to the quarterly or half-yearly meeting to which the said monthly or executive meeting belonged, for the same purpose.

REQUESTS TO BE RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP.

Requests from those who desire to be received into membership are to be introduced by the overseers, and read in the preparative meeting ; and, if no inappropriety appear in their being forwarded to the monthly or executive meeting, they should be sent with the minutes of the preparative meeting.

The preparative meeting, or the overseers, are not to judge of a request so as to prevent its going to the monthly or executive meeting, though either may observe to the requester any manifest obstruction ; but, should he continue desirous to have it laid before the monthly or executive meeting, it is to be forwarded accordingly.

The monthly or executive meeting should appoint some suitable Friends to inquire into the life and con-

versation of the requester, and to take the necessary opportunity with him in order to ascertain whether the motives for the request be sincere, and on the ground of convincement, and to report their sense thereon ; and when the meeting concludes to receive the person into membership, a minute to that import is to be made, and two or more Friends are to be appointed to inform him of it.

Monthly or executive meetings are to receive into membership young children, whose parents are members, on the application of their parents, unless it should appear to the meeting that they are not likely to be educated consistently with our profession.

When the request is for children, one of whose parents is a member and the other not, monthly or executive meetings are to receive such children at the request of the parent who is a member, when there is a probability of their being educated agreeably to our religious profession.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

As much inconvenience would be likely to result from a want of due attention to keeping a record of birth and deaths, monthly or executive meetings are annually to appoint a committee, of which one or more should be from each preparative meeting, to

collect an account of all the births and deaths of members, which have occurred within their respective limits, during the preceding year ; to be by them handed to a Friend, appointed by the monthly or executive meeting, to record them in a book provided for that purpose ; and monthly or executive meetings may record the births of children as members where one parent is a member, with the consent or request of the other parent where there is a probability of their being educated consistently with our profession.

The form of the record is as follows, viz :

BIRTHS.

Names of children.	When born.	Names of the parents.	Their residence.

DEATHS.

Names of the deceased.	When deceased.	Age.	Parents' names.	Late resid'e.

That funerals may be accomplished in an orderly manner, monthly or executive meetings are directed to appoint a committee to attend those of our society, and the burials of those not in membership with us, at the place of interment.

Should any person not a member make a request upon reasonable grounds for permission to bury in our cemeteries, and forego the erection of costly or extravagant memorial stones, not in harmony with our testimony in this respect, permission may be granted at

the discretion of the committee in charge of funerals. In the spirit of religious toleration no objections should be made to the performance of any quiet, orderly burial service preferred by the friends of the deceased

It is advised that our members avoid all extravagance or vain display in the conduct of funerals, manifesting by their simplicity of apparel and serious deportment, their sympathy with the solemnity of the occasion ; also, that no monuments or extravagant memorial stones be erected within our burial-grounds. This is not intended to prohibit any modest and reasonable head-stone or tablet to mark the resting place of the deceased.

REMOVALS AND CERTIFICATES.

When Friends have a prospect of removing, they should be careful not to suffer wrong motives to influence their conclusions ; and before such steps are taken as may close the way to receive advice, they are recommended to consult some of their experienced friends, on the propriety of the proposed removal.

When any remove, they should have a certificate from the monthly or executive meeting of which they are members, recommending them to the monthly or

executive meeting where they are going to reside, expressive only of their right of membership, and legal settlement of temporal concerns, to be founded on inquiry made by a committee appointed for that purpose, and the committee are not to confine their inquiries to the monthly or executive meeting where the person resides, if there be reason to believe that his affairs are not settled in other places. If the certificate be for a recommended minister, it should be expressive of the fact.

When a certificate of removal is produced to the meeting to which it is directed, it shall be the duty of that meeting to accept it, unless there be some manifest obstruction ; and when accepted, the Friend recommended by it shall be a member of that meeting.

Removal certificates should be forwarded for apprentices, and others under age, who are placed within the limits of another monthly or executive meeting.

Monthly meetings are advised to extend due care that certificates of removal be seasonably forwarded to the meetings to which they are directed.

Certificates of removal are to be preserved, by record or otherwise, by the monthly or executive meeting accepting them ; and each meeting should keep records of all certificates which it issues.

DIFFERENCES AND ARBITRATIONS.

Should differences arise between any members of our society, about their temporal concerns according to ancient and comely order, brother ought not to go to law with brother, except from apparent and urgent necessity, as is hereafter expressed and limited ; namely, the party thinking he has reason of complaint, is to speak in a calm and friendly manner, or, if he live at a distance too great to do it in person, he should write to the party by whom he thinks himself injured, or in danger of suffering in his just right ; endeavoring by gentle means, in a brotherly manner, to obtain it ; but if this orderly proceeding prove ineffectual, either himself, or, if he live at a distance, some friend to whom he may write and empower on his behalf, should take one or more of the overseers, or other judicious Friends, and in like manner make the claim ; and the Friends accompanying the complainant are to use their endeavors to have the matter justly and expeditiously settled between the parties. Should the case appear to be a plain one, or a debt against which no reasonable objection is made by the debtor, they are to advise the party complained of to make satisfaction, without carrying it either to arbitrators or to the meeting ; but should there appear to be either unsettled differences in accounts, or cause

for dispute, and they cannot effect a settlement between the parties themselves, they are to advise them to submit it to arbitration. If either party refuse to do this, such refusal ought to be represented to the preparative meeting by the overseers, or by the other party, if neglected by them ; previous notice of which is to be given to the person complained of. And, provided the parties cannot, by the meetings' care, be brought to an agreement, or refer the subject to arbitration, the complaint should be carried from the preparative to the monthly or executive meeting, previously notifying the party complained of. The first proceeding of the monthly or executive meeting should be to inquire whether the beforementioned gospel order has been duly observed ; and if it has not, the complaint is to be referred back to the preparative meeting, and no notice of the subject taken on minnte ; but should it appear, that the necessary care has been previously taken, the monthly or executive meeting is to appoint a committee to have a conference with the parties, and to ascertain whether the case be attended with such circumstances as will justify the monthly or executive meeting in advising it to be left to arbitration. Should this appear to be the case by the report of the committee, the parties are to be again advised to submit the subject to arbitration.

When a case of difference has been submitted to arbitration, the award ought to be final, unless it

should appear evident that the arbitrators have materially erred in their judgment, or proceedings, or have not given sufficient opportunity of producing the necessary evidence in the case ; where this appears evident to the monthly or executive meeting, the quarterly or half-yearly meeting should be informed, that the monthly or executive meeting has a case before it, in which it desires assistance ; and the quarterly or half-yearly meeting is to appoint a committee to sit with and assist the monthly or executive meeting therein ; and should it appear on mature consideration, that there is cause for dissatisfaction, a rehearing is to be granted by the same, or other arbitrators and their award, shall be final.

When arbitrators are chosen in any case, they ought, as speedily as may be, to appoint time and place, and attend duly to the subject, giving the parties and their witnesses a full and fair hearing, in the presence of each other ; they should avoid unnecessary delay, and make the award within the time appointed.

As there may be circumstances which would render it unreasonable to require a compliance with the before mentioned procedure, such as, firstly, the party absconding, or leaving the country with the design of defrauding his creditors; or, secondly, when the time it would take to go through the meeting, might be a manifest damage to the creditor or claimant, as in cases of apparent danger of bankruptcy, and the party

being largely in debt, and other creditors generally commencing suits, or otherwise securing their demands ; or when, by the statute of limitation, a claim may be barred in law ; or, thirdly, when there may be danger of future damage to those who may submit thereto, as in the case of executors, administrators, trustees, or Friends who stand as security for those who are not in the membership with us ; it may therefore be necessary, and it is advised that monthly or executive meetings hold excused such as shall appear to them to be thus necessitated to proceed at law ; and the parties are cautioned to conduct themselves towards each other with decency and moderation, without anger or animosity, which will be a becoming testimony even in courts, and show that nothing but the nature of the case, and our common station with our neighbors, under the laws of the land, bring any of us there.

It is advised that persons differing about temporal concerns, do, as seldom as may be, choose ministers for arbitrators.

And as it is our duty to seek peace with all men, and to avoid giving provocation, or just offense to any, it is advised that Friends do not go to law with others not of our profession, without due consideration; and having sufficient cause for it ; manifesting, in contested cases, a decided preference for a settlement by arbitration.

Friends ought to give no just cause for others to go to law with them ; but they should carefully comply with their promises and contracts ; and, when they have reason for objecting to a demand, they should show a readiness to settle it between themselves, or submit to reference.

SCRIPTURES OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS.

It is affectionately recommended to Friends, especially parents and heads of families to endeavor, both by precept and example, to impress on the minds of the younger class a due regard for the truths contained in these excellent writings, the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, and advise them frequently to read and meditate thereon, and at proper seasons to instruct them, that the same blessed experience of the work of sanctification through the operation of the Spirit of Truth, to which they bear testimony, is to be witnessed now, as in former ages by all who attend to its manifestations. Thus, by the Divine blessing on their pious case, their youthful minds may be led into a firm belief in the Christian religion, as held forth in the Scriptures, particularly in those parts which relate to the holy life, blessed example, doctrine and precepts of Jesus.

BOOKS.

Agreeably to the directions given to the representative committee the oversight of all writings proposed to be printed, which relate to our religious principles and doctrines, Friends who may have such publications in view, are to lay them before that meeting for its advice and concurrence.

Should any of our members print or publish any writing against the advice of the representative committee, or which tends to excite disunity and discord amongst us, they should be treated with that they may be convinced of the impropriety of their conduct.

It is incumbent on parents and heads of families to prevent as much as possible, all those under their direction from perusing publications which may tend to weaken their confidence in the christian religion, or may excite doubts concerning the authenticity of the Scriptures, and those important truths declared in them ; lest their inexperienced minds should be poisoned thereby, and a foundation be laid for the greatest evils.

It is also enjoined on all the members of our religious society, to discourage and suppress the reading of plays, romances, and all other corrupting books

and publications, that have a tendency to awaken and invigorate those evil propensities "which war against the soul," and which it is the duty, as well as interest, of every christian mind to keep in subjection.

Printers and booksellers, in membership with us, are cautioned against printing, selling or lending such books or publications.

SCHOOLS.

As it is important that suitable schools for the right education of our youth should be established, Friends are advised to cherish a liberal disposition, and make such provision as may encourage well-qualified persons to engage in this useful occupation. For want of teachers of this description, there is reason to apprehend that children have sometimes been committed to the care of persons whose example and influence have betrayed them into principles and habits, which have had an injurious effect on them in more advanced life.

Friends should endeavor to procure teachers of our own religious profession, who are not only qualified to instruct the youth in school learning, but to co-operate with the society in their religious endeavors to excite

in them a love of virtue, and to afford them the good example of a conduct consistent with our principles.

Friends are desired to be careful in the choice of suitable school-books, and to select such as are calculated to direct the susceptible and tender minds of youth in the practice of piety and virtue.

APPRENTICES.

Children, who are members of our society, should be placed by their parents and guardians, with Friends, unless, after due inquiry, no suitable place can be found; when application should be made to a monthly or executive meeting for advice, which is to appoint committee to render the necessary assistance.

It is advised, that Friends who take children or apprentices, give a preference to our own members, and that they be moderate in their terms, that the children of Friends in low circumstances, in an especial manner, may be brought up to such trades and business, as may, with a blessing on their produce and industry, produce them a comfortable living.

It is the incumbent duty of Friends to instruct all children placed under their care in school-learning, to fit them for business.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

Friends are advised to demean themselves circumspectly towards all men, in the peaceable spirit of the gospel, to avoid political controversies, or giving just occasion of offence to those in government ; if we dwell in the principles of Truth, our testimonies will be preferred to every temporal consideration, and the offices of profit and honor in government will neither be sought for, nor accepted by us.

Friends are not to receive unlawful interest, or be concerned in any trade contrary to law ; or in anywise encourage such practices in others.

SUFFERINGS.

As, in support of our christian testimonies, Friends are sometimes brought into suffering, they are tenderly advised and exhortsd, when requisitions repugnant to our principles are made, that they do not, by any indirect means, attempt to evade them ; but, in the spirit of meekness, patiently and cheerfully submit ; for, by such a temper only, we canshow that we suffer for consciences' sake.

Friends should keep an accurate account of their sufferings, specifying the sum, the time when taken, for what, and by whom ; to be handed to, and carefully inspected by a committee of the monthly or executive meeting ; and, if approved, the particulars are to be recorded in a book kept by the meeting for that purpose ; the statement of the amount, and the cause for which it was taken, are to be sent from the monthly or executive to the quarterly, half-yearly and yearly meetings.

WILLS AND DONATION.

Friends should be provided with wills ; and be careful to renew them as often as occasion may require ; to dispose of their property according to justice that it may tend to their satisfaction and peace, and the promotion of harmony in their families.

They are advised, on such occasions, as a prudent measure, to consult some of their judicious Friends with respect to the dispositions of their estates.

The making of suitable wills in time of health may prevent the subject from claiming attention on a sick bed, when the mind should not be diverted from a solemn consideration of the closing of life.

As much may depend on the confidential trust of executorship, both with respect to a due care of the property, as well as the education and welfare of children in their minority, Friends should be careful in whom they place that important charge.

Persons employed to draft wills should be of good repute, and have a competent knowledge of the subject. Wills should contain a clause empowering executors to submit to reference all disputed matters relative to the estate: and executor and administrators are to have a full, clear, and perfect inventory of the estate made out as soon as it can be conveniently accomplished.

All concerned in wills and settlements, are advised to a punctual and faithful discharge of their respective trusts, according to the intent of the donors, or testators.

Meetings, concerned in any charitable gifts, legacies, or bequests, for the use of the poor, or other purposes of the society, should take special care that they be not appropriated to any other use than such as the donors, or testators, have directed or enjoined, by legal settlement, will, or testament.

MEMORIALS.

To commemmorate the lives of the righteous, is a tribute due to their memory, and may prove an incentive to the living to emulate their virtues. Should a monthly or executive meeting prepare a memorial concerning a deceased member, it may be sent to the quarterly meeting ; and should the quarterly or half-yearly meeting, after careful attention, approve of it, it is to be forwarded to the representative committee for inspection and correction, and then be laid before the yearly meeting, unless the representative committee should, in some instances, deem it inexpedient.

TITLES OF LANDS.

It is recommended to quarterly or half-yearly and monthly or executive meetings to make timely and careful inspection into the titles of meeting-houses, burial grounds, and other estates, which have been vested in trustees for the use and benefit of the society, or of any of its meetings, that in case the death of any trustees, or other circumstances, should render it

necessary, seasonable care may be taken to appoint others to the trust, that future difficulties, and the risk of being deprived of such estates, may be avoided. Quarterly, half-yearly, monthly and executive meetings are to keep correct records of all such trusts and conveyances ; and also a clear and regular account of the place where, and the persons with whom the papers, minutes and records, belonging to our religious society, are deposited ; and due care should be taken to lodge them with suitable Friends.

Titles of land for meeting, burial, and charitable purposes, for the use and benefit of the society, shall be vested in either monthly, executive, quarterly or half-yearly meetings, or the yearly meeting. When such titles are acquired, such meetings shall appoint two or more trustees, in the usual manner of appointing committees by said meetings, to receive and hold such titles for the use and benefit of such meetings. Such trustees may be removed and successors appointed by said meetings at any time they may deem best ; and any vacancies which may occur by death or otherwise, shall be filled by such meetings. Those filling such vacancies, or those who may be appointed successors, shall have the same powers as the original trustees.

DAYS AND TIMES.

In order that the importance of this christian testimony may be the more clearly discerned, the following account is recommended to the serious consideration of Friends.

A brief account of the origin of the names, commonly used, of some of the months in the year, and of all the days in the week :

I. January was so called from Janus, an ancient king of Italy, whom heathenish superstition had deified ; to whom a temple was built, and this month dedicated.

II. February was so called from Februa, a word denoting purgation by sacrifices ; it being usual in this month, for the priests of the heathen god Pan, to offer sacrifices, and perform certain rites, conducing, as was supposed, to the cleansing or purgation of the people.

III. March was denominated from Mars, feigned to be the god of war, who, Romulus, founder of the Roman empire, pretended was his Father.

IV. April is generally supposed to derive its name from the Greek appellation of Venus, an imaginary goddess, worshipped by the Romans

V. May is said to have been so called from Maia, the mother of Mercury, another of their pretended heathen deities, to whom, in this month, they paid their devotions.

VI. June is said to take its name from Juno, one of the supposed goddess of the heathen.

VII. July, so called from Julius Cæsar, one of the Roman Emperors, who gave his name to this month, which before was called Quintilis, or the fifth.

VIII. August, so named in honor of Augustus Cæsar, another of the Roman Emperors. This month before was called Sextilis, or the sixth.

The other four months, namely, September, October, November, and December, still retain their numerical Latin names ; which, according to the last regulation of the calendar, are improperly applied. However, from the continued use of them hitherto, as well as from the practice of the Jew before the Babylonish captivity, it seems highly probable that the method of distinguishing the months by their numerical order only, was the most ancient, as it is the most plain, simple, and rational.

As the idolatrous Romans thus gave names to several of the months, in honor of their pretended deities, so the like idolatry, prevailing among the Saxons, induced them to call the days of the week by the name of the idol, which, on that day they peculiarly worshipped. Hence,

The first day of the week they called Sunday, from their customary adoration of the sun on that day.

The second day of the week they called Monday, from their usual custom of worshipping the moon on that day.

The third day of the week they named Tuesday, in honor of one of their idols called Tuisco.

The fourth day of the week was called Wednesday, from the appellation of Woden, another of their idols.

The fifth day of the week was called Thursday, from the name of an idol called Thor, to whom they paid their devotions on that day.

The sixth day of the week was termed Friday, from the name of Freya, an imaginary goddess, by them worshipped.

The seventh day was called Saturday, from Seater, by them worshipped ; or from Saturn, an imaginary deity of the Romans.



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